



EMBARGO: noon 25 JULY 1973

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Reference No. 6.32

THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1973 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This preliminary statement will be followed in due course by the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20), which gives information in greater detail.

2. Estimates of the civilian labour force are based on the results of the quarterly population sample survey held in February, May, August and November each year. A new sample was phased in over three surveys, May to November 1972, and the November 1972 estimates are based entirely on the new sample. It appears that some discontinuity may have resulted from the change, particularly in the estimates for married women in the labour force. Care should therefore be taken in interpreting changes in the estimates between February and November 1972.

3. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen years and over except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

4. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week known as 'survey week', which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These four survey weeks are chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months. Definitions of the principal categories appearing in this statement are given in the quarterly bulletins.

5. Prior to the November 1972 survey, estimates of employed persons by industry were published according to the 1966 Census Classification of Industries. The basis of industry coding for the November 1972 and subsequent surveys is the Australian Standard Industrial Classification. Estimates for employed persons according to both industrial classifications, for the period August 1971 to August 1972, will be published in the next issue of the quarterly bulletin. Estimates for agriculture for August 1972 are shown on both bases in the table on page 2 of this statement.

6. The chosen survey periods for February in 1971 and 1972 fell somewhat later than the similar period in other years. Consequently, the numbers of persons who had returned to schools and universities, etc., by the time of the survey might be expected to be greater in 1971 and 1972 than in other years, thus reducing the proportion of the population fifteen years of age and over recorded as being in the labour force. No exact estimate of this effect is available; however, it may be conjectured that had the survey periods been one week earlier, approximately twenty thousand more persons would have been classified as being in the labour force.

7. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in *The Labour Force*.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

Symbols and abbreviations used in this statement

n.a.	not available
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
—	break in continuity of series (where drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)

CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Month	Employed (b) (c)			Unemployed (b)			Total labour force (b)			Not in labour force ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)		
	Agri-culture (d) ('000)	Other industries ('000)	Total ('000)	Number		Per cent of labour force	Number	Seasonally adjusted (e) ('000)	Per cent of population (g)				
				Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (e) ('000)	Original (f)							
MALES													
1972 -Feb. (h)	355.8	3,350.6	3,706.4	74.8	67.8	2.0	1.8	3,781.3	3,759.4	82.8	784.3	4,565.6	
May	345.3	3,371.3	3,716.6	61.0	62.0	1.6	1.6	3,777.6	3,774.3	82.5	800.1	4,577.7	
Aug.	351.4	3,349.6	3,701.0	67.4	76.0	1.8	2.0	3,768.4	3,785.1	82.3	809.9	4,578.3	
Aug.	344.4	3,356.6											
Nov.	315.8	r3,415.1	r3,730.9	70.7	68.6	1.9	1.8	3,801.6	3,810.1	82.5	807.5	4,609.1	
1973 -Feb.	311.2	3,452.2	3,763.4	67.9	61.9	1.8	1.6	3,831.3	3,809.5	82.6	806.8	4,638.1	
May	309.4	3,453.7	3,763.1	50.7	51.5	1.3	1.4	3,813.8	3,810.3	82.0	839.0	4,652.8	
MARRIED WOMEN													
1972 -Feb. (h)	58.7	988.5	1,047.2	33.1	n.a.	3.1	n.a.	1,080.3	1,086.9	35.2	1,989.8	3,070.1	
May	51.7	1,012.8	1,064.5	27.8	n.a.	2.5	n.a.	1,092.3	1,099.1	35.2	2,011.8	3,104.1	
Aug.	55.8	1,047.8	1,103.6	27.6	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1,131.2	1,138.9	36.5	1,971.3	3,102.5	
Nov.	61.7	r1,080.8	r1,142.5	r28.2	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	r1,170.7	1,148.7	37.5	r1,949.7	r3,120.4	
1973 -Feb.	59.4	1,068.4	1,127.8	39.3	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	1,167.1	1,174.2	37.2	1,971.2	3,138.4	
May	54.5	1,099.9	1,154.4	25.9	n.a.	2.2	n.a.	1,180.3	1,187.7	37.3	1,980.8	3,161.1	
ALL FEMALES													
1972 -Feb. (h)	71.3	1,669.0	1,740.3	61.0	49.6	3.4	2.8	1,801.3	1,793.3	38.9	2,833.3	4,634.6	
May	62.8	1,683.0	1,745.8	49.2	51.1	2.7	2.8	1,794.9	1,801.8	38.6	2,851.2	4,646.1	
Aug.	68.0	1,710.0											
Aug.	65.6	1,712.4	1,778.0	53.9	63.9	2.9	3.5	1,831.9	1,848.7	39.4	2,816.8	4,648.7	
Nov.	73.9	r1,762.1	r1,836.0	65.5	68.1	3.4	3.6	r1,901.6	1,885.2	r40.6	r2,786.9	4,688.5	
1973 -Feb.	70.7	1,763.0	1,833.7	75.6	61.4	4.0	3.2	1,090.4	1,901.5	40.5	2,807.5	4,716.9	
May	65.0	1,772.8	1,837.8	49.5	51.4	2.6	2.7	1,887.3	1,894.7	39.9	2,839.9	4,727.2	
PERSONS													
1972 -Feb. (h)	427.2	5,019.6	5,446.8	135.8	117.6	2.4	2.1	5,582.6	5,554.2	60.7	3,617.6	9,200.2	
May	408.1	5,054.3	5,462.4	110.2	112.6	2.0	2.0	5,572.6	5,574.3	60.4	3,651.2	9,223.8	
Aug.	419.4	5,059.6											
Aug.	410.0	5,068.9	5,478.9	121.3	139.3	2.2	2.5	5,600.3	5,634.8	60.7	3,626.7	9,227.0	
Nov.	389.7	r5,177.2	r5,566.9	r136.3	136.7	2.4	2.4	r5,703.2	5,695.4	61.3	r3,594.4	9,297.6	
1973 -Feb.	382.0	5,215.2	5,597.2	143.5	124.7	2.5	2.2	5,740.7	5,712.1	61.4	3,614.3	9,355.0	
May	374.4	5,226.5	5,600.9	100.2	102.4	1.8	1.8	5,701.1	5,702.8	60.8	3,678.9	9,380.0	

(a) For a note on persons excluded see paragraph 3. (b) For definitions see *The Labour Force, August 1972* page 3, paragraphs 2 to 6. (c) Employed includes employers and self-employed in addition to wage and salary earners. For monthly statistics of wage and salary earners see *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). (d) See paragraph 5 regarding the change in industry classification. (e) Seasonally adjusted statistics for these and other series have been revised following the annual re-analysis of data. For details of methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators 1973* (Reference No. 1.10), to be issued shortly. (f) Original unemployed as a percentage of original labour force. (g) The labour force (original) in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group (labour force participation rate).

(h) See paragraph 6 regarding the effect of a change in timing of the survey.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr I. Neville on 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.